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CHILD'S GROWTH MAY VARY WITH SEASON

A 2-year study, made at the Ohio Experiment Station, of a group of normal, healthy, well-nourished preschool children showed that their growth was not an even, regular process. Autumn was the season when these children gained the most in weight. Autumn also seemed to be the time of year when they had the largest appetites, for their food intake was highest at this period. But winter and spring proved to be more favorable to increase in height.

Another study of growth recently made at the Texas Experiment Station included children of elementary-school age of three races- white, Mexican, and Negro. Texas results agreed with Ohio results in the matter of weight and season. All three groups of Texas children made slightly better average gains in weight in the fall than in the other seasons. The monthly gains for the four fall months averaged about 10 percent of the entire yearly gain. October was the month of greatest gain and April the poorest. But in gains in height, Texas results do not agree with Ohio results. The Texas study showed that season had little effect on height since the growth in that direction was fairly uniform throughout the year. The Texas investigators add that their study emphasizes the importance of considering each child individually in his course of growth. Too much departure from regularity of gain calls for special attention.

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